

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO USLO PEKING

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EAID SCUL CH US

SUBJ: CONGEN DEBRIEFING OF US WATER RESOURCES TEAM TO PRC

REF: HK 9578

SUMMARY . U.S. WATER RESOURCES TEAM EXITING PRC
REPORTED THEY VISITED NUMBER OF FACILITIES BUT LEARNED LITTLE
OF YELLOW RIVER PROJECTS AND PROBLEMS. TEAM WAS IMPRESSED
BY ORGANIZATION OF LABOR ON LARGE PROJECTS AND UNIVERSAL
EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE. ALL AREAS VISITED HAD ELECTRICITY,
LARGELY HYDROELECTRIC. PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED GENRALLY
WERE THESE EASIEST TO DO; FURTHER PROJECTS WILL BE INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT. SILTING APPEARS AS THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACING CHINA'S
WATER ENGINEERS. BEST AREA FOR POTENTIAL US-PRC COOPERATION
IN WATER CONSSERVANCY IS IN SAMLLER-SCALE, SOIL EROSION PREVENTION
PROJECTS, IN OPINION OF TEAM LEADER. HOWEVER, CHINESE SHOWED
LITTLE INTEREST IN OBTAINING TECHNICAL COMMENTS FROM THE US
TEAM. END SUMMARY.

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1. DR. MAURICE ALBERTSON OF COLORADO STATE

UNIVERSITY, LEADER OF PRIVATELY-FUNDED 11- MEMBER US WATER RESOURCES TEAM WHICH VISITED PRC AUGUST 19- SEPT. 19, VISITED CONGEN WITH THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF TEAM FOR DISCUSSION OF TRIP, HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW.

2. ITINERARY: TEAM TRAVELED TO CANTON, HANGCHOW, SHANGHAI, NANKING, CHENGCHOW, ANYANG, PEKING, TSUNHUA AND TIENTSIN WHERE THEY VISITED TOTAL OF 9 WATER CONSERVANCY FACILITIES INCLUDING POWER STATIONS, PUMPING STATIONS, HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS, CANALS, DYKES AND RESERVOIRS. IN ADDITION, VISITED FIVE COMMUNES (OBSERVING SMALL WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS), THREE UNIVERSITIES AND SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES. (TEAM DID NOT SEE DEEP WELLS OF WHICH SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND BUILT IN PAST 2-3 YEARS. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHY TEAM DID NOT SEE SUCH AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OR HAVE IT MENTIONED TO THEM BY THE CHINESE.)

3. WATER CONSERVANCY: TEAM IMPRESSED WITH ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY AND RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED IN MASSING 7-10 THOUSAND PEASANTS TO COMPLETE A 6- MONTH PROJECT IN 2 MONTHS. IMPRESSED BY BOLDNESS OF PROJECTS IN WHICH STREAMS WHOSE UNPREDICTABLE MEANDERING MADE NEAR BY AGRICULTURE RISKY ARE PUT INTO "STRAIGHTJACKETS" OF STONE AND MORTAR, SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION EACH WINTER IN 1 OR 2 MAJOR DISTRIBUTORY CHANNELS ON THE HAI HO.

4. EFFICIENCY IN LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ENHANCED BY COORDINATION OF TWO TYPES OF ORGANIZATION: (1) FULL-TIME SPECIALISTS, SUCH AS STONECUTTERS AND MASONS, MOVING FROM PROJECT TO PROJECT; WITH (2) LARGE NUMBERS OF PEASANTS, USED AS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT GENERAL LABOR TASKS. ADVANTAGES TO COMMUNES AND BRIGADES FROM MASS LABOR INPUTS ARE CLEARLY AND QUICKLY APPARENT AS WATER BECOMES IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR IRRIGATION; AN IMPORTANT INCENTIVE IN MARSHALING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEASANTS FOR PROJECTS. APPARENTLY THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF LOCAL AUTONOMY IN WATER CONSERVANCY CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS IN OTHER AREAS OF ACTIVITY, BUT WHEN PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION, WATER RIGHTS, ETC., ARISE IN PROJECTS EXTENDING BEYOND BOUNDARIES OF BRIGADES, COMMUNES OR HIGHER THEY ARE RESOLVED AT NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGHEST LEVEL OF AUTHORITY.

5. ELECTRIC POWER: ALTHOUGH IRRIGATION OF PRIME IMPORTANCE, RESULTS OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS WERE CLEARLY APPARENT; I.E. TEAM SAW NO AREAS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, AND MOST OF IT HYDROELECTRIC. IN AREAS WHERE HYDROELECTRIC POWER IS IMPORTANT (AND IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES), USED WATER IS TREATED AND CHanneled INTO

IRRIGATION USE.

6. DURING GREAT LEAP FORWARD, UNDER RUSSIAN INFLUENCE, STRESS WAS ON LARGE-SCALE HE PROJECTS AND MANY OF EASIEST PROJECTS WERE BUILT. SINCE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON SAMLLER PROJECTS, FINANCED LOCALLY, WITH RESULT THAT SMALL-SCALE HE POWER PROJECTS WITH AVERAGE 30-35 KW CAPACITY NOW PRODUCE APPROX. 10 PERCENT (EST. 2-3 MKW) OF TOTAL GENERATING CAPACITY.

7. SELF - RELIANCE. DELEGATION IMPRESSED BY REPEATED EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL AREAS OF ACTIVITY. COMMUNES APPEARED TO ENJOY A GREAT DEAL OF AUTONOMY. REGIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SELF-RELIANT TO DEGREE OF MEETING OWN REQUIREMENTS (SELF-SUFFICIENCY) AND IN PROVIDING SURPLUS FOR EXCHANGE WITH OTHER REGIONS OR FOR EXPORT. LARGE -SCALE, STATE-FINANCED WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE, DESCRIBED AS ACHIEVING "CHINA SELF-RELIANCE", WHILE PROVINCIAL-LEVEL PROJECTS AIMED AT "PROVINCIAL SELF-RELIANCE." IN CONSTRUCTION, PEASANTS PRODUCE OWN QUICK-LIME FOR MORTOR TO MINIMIZE REAUIREMENTS FOR PORTLAND CEMENT.

8. YELLOW RIVER AND SILTING: CHINESE WOULD NOT DISCUSS YELLOW RIVER SUCCESSES OR FAILURES, INCLUDING SAN MEN DAM WHICH NOW FULFILLING ONLY ONE OF THREE MAJOR OBJECTIVES-- FLOOD CONTROL--- WITH RESERVOIR SILTING INCREASINGLY SERIOUS. (U.S. PLANT SCIENCES DELEGATION, WHICH WATER RESOURCES GROUP MET IN PEKING SAID THEY BELIEVED PROBLEM LARGELY RESULTED FROM GULY WASHES IN SIAN). REASON FOR RETICENCE MAY HAVE BEEN THAT THE SERIOUS SILTING PROBLEM HAD NOT YET BEEN ADMITTED PUBLICLY, SILTING IS ALSO MAJOR PROBLEM ELSEWHERE, WITH HEAVY SEDIMENT LOADS IN MANY STREAMS AND CANALS. (ONE CANAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY WAS CLOSED WHEN SEDIMENT LEVEL REACHED 40 PERCENT.)

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ACTION EA-10

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9. OTHER OBSERVATIONS: (A) TIENTSIN HARBOR: CONTINUAL
DREDGING CARRIED OUT AS PART OF WORK TO DOUBLE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL

BERTHS TO 20. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, 3,000 - TON CESSLS
CAN REACH TIENTSIN, BUT 5,000 - TON VESSELS CAN MAKE IT ONLY ON
HIGH TIDE. TIENTSIN PORT AUTHORITIES NOT INTERESTED IN
USA PRC EXCHANGE OF HARBOR PORT AUTHORITIES. (B) ROADS:
APPEAR IN EXCELLENT CONDITION MOST EVERYWHERE, WITH CONSIDERABLE
WORK UNDERWAY BUILDING NEW ROADS AND WIDENING AND BLACK-
TOPPING EXISTING ROADS. MANY SMALL TRACTORS SEEN ON ROADSHAWLING
LOADS. (C) UNIVERSITIES AND TRAINING: TSINGHUA ("CHINA'S
MIT") APPEARS STILL AFFECTED BY CULTURAL REVOLUTION
(E.G. APPARENTLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE AND VERY POOR LIBRARY),
WHILE AT EAST CHINA WATER CONSERVANCY COLLEGE AT NANKING THERE
WAS RELAXED BUT BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE AND EXCELLENT LIBRARY
WITH LATEST PERIODICALS. STUDY APPROACH WAS THOUGH THE USE
OF WORK BOOKS WITH STUDENT NOTES ON PROJECTS. THIS APPROACH,
LIKE THAT OF A US TECHNICAL INSTITUTION, WILL NOT PRODUCE
THE KIND OF CREATIVE ENGINEERING TALENT CHINA SO BADLY
NEEDS. SHORTLY, CHINA WILL HAVE LOST 10 YEARS IN THE
PROJECTION OF BS STUDENTS AND GRADUATE-LEVEL TECHNICIANS;
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SO NO LEARNED PROFESSORS. THERE IS A REAL SHORTAGE OF
PURE RESEARCH. THE INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF PROFESSORS
AND STUDENTS IS INTERRUPTED BY PERIODS OF FIELD LABOR.
(D) TECHNICAL EXCHANGE: GROUP WAS DISAPPOINTED AT THE
LACK OF WORKING LEVEL EXCHANGE. IN TRADITIONAL FASHION,
CHINESE ALWAYS ENDED PRESENTATIONS WITH REQUEST FOR
ADVICE AND COMMENT. HOWEVER, INITIAL SUGGESTIONS FROM THE
U.S. SIDE WERE COUNTERED DEFENSIVELY, SO THE TEAM DECLINED

TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENT. THERE WAS SOME INTEREST AT THE PEKING MINISTRY LEVEL IN AN EXCHANGE ON THE CAVITATION PROBLEMS. BUT THAT WAS ALL. THE GROUP FOUND NO USE FOR THE EXTENSIVE LECTURE MATERIAL THEY TOOK INTO CHINA WITH THEM.

10. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS: AMONG GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OR CONCLUSIONS TEAM DERIVED FROM MONTH- LONG STAY IN PRC WERE: (A) NO SIGNS OF HUNGER OR MALNUTRITION: RATHER, PEOPLE EVERYWHERE APPEARED VERY HEALTHY; (B) WATER USED EFFECTIVELY MOST EVERYWHERE; (C) SOUTH CHINA WILL RUN OUT OF LAND (TO CULTIVATE) BEFORE IT RUNS OUT OF WATER; (D) SILTING APPEARS TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN WATER CONSERVANCY; (E) THE EASIEST PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DONE; FUTURE PROJECTS WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND COSTLY; (F) THE CHINESE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION IS A "PIDDLING AFFAIR" ABOUT ONE-QUARTER THE SIZE NEEDED. (G) WATER RATES, AMAZINGLY ,ARE SET BY CONSULTATION WITH THE MASSES.

11. NOTE: A TEAM MEMBER, KROFWV# ALBERTSON, WAS SHOWN RECORD OF COMMENTS MADE BY SOME PREVIOUS VISITORS TO PRC IN APPARENT CAUTIONARY HINT THAT CHINESE HAVE GOOD CLIPING SERVICE AND KEEP CAREFUL WATCH ON STATEMENTS MADE BY ALL VISITORS AFTER LEAVING CHINA. TEAM ASSUMED IMPLICATION WAS RECORDS CONSULTED WHEN CONSIDERING REPEAT VISA REQUESTS.
CROSS

NOTE BY OC/T: (#)AS RECEIVED.

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